



BOROUGH OF ARUNDEL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer

of Health

1954

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1954

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THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman

Alderman E.J. Herington, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Alderman R.W. Pearson, M.C., M.B., J.P.

The Mayor

Alderman A.G. Whittaker, J.P.

The Deputy Mayor

Councillor L.A. Franklin

Councillor L.B. Glossop

Councillor Miss M.E. Langford

Councillor C.W. Sewell

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

V.P. Geoghegan, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Engineer.

H.W. Simmonds, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Clerical Staff

Mrs. L. Stevens

Miss S.M. Dobbs

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Arundel.

June, 1955.

TO: His Worship The Mayor, Aldermen
and Councillors of the BOROUGH OF ARUNDEL.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Seventh Annual Report on the health of the Borough and the work of the Public Health Department during 1954.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Borough's population at mid-1954 was 2,650, an increase of 50 over the mid-1953 estimate.

The Principal Vital Statistics were:-

	Arundel Borough		England & Wales	
	1954	1953	1954	1953
Population	...	2650	2600	-
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 population	...	12.07	15.00	15.2
Crude Death Rate per 1000 population	...	14.33	14.23	11.3
				11.4

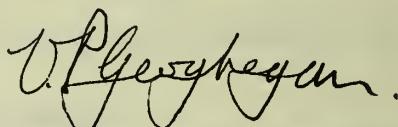
In a small population fluctuations in annual birth and death rates are of no significance.

The continuing importance of Diphtheria Immunisation is stressed in Section VI of the report.

I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council for their help, to Mr. H. W. Simmonds, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, who has supplied most of the material for the report, and also to Mr. J. Westbrook, Chief Clerk of the Chichester Rural District Health Department, who has been largely responsible for its preparation.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Section 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

This small country town lying on the banks of the Arun is a shopping centre for the surrounding villages. The population finds employment in agriculture and its ancillary industries, on the Norfolk Estate and in the retail and catering trades encouraged by the increasing number of summer visitors.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,054
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population (1953 mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,600
Registrar-General's Estimate of Home Population (1954 mid-year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,650
Number of inhabited dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	951
Rateable Value (1st January, 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£22,893
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 92

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

ARUNDEL BOROUGH							BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION			
Year	Total	Total Number (after adjustment for transfers)				Birth Rate per 1,000 population		West Sussex		England and Wales
		Sex	Illegitimate	No.	%	Crude	Corr.	Rural	Urban	(Uncorrected)
1953	39	17	22	-	-	15.00	16.95	14.58	11.62	15.5
1954	32	17	15	2	6.25	12.07	14.72	15.43	12.26	15.2

Stillbirths

Total Number (after adjustment for transfers)				Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Rate per 1,000 population
Year	Total	Sex	M		
1953	1	-	1	25.00	0.38
1954	2	1	1	58.82	0.75

Deaths

ARUNDEL BOROUGH					WEST SUSSEX		ENGLAND AND WALES	
Total Deaths (after adjustment for transfers)			Death Rates per 1,000 population		Death Rates per 1,000 population (Uncorrected)			
Year	Total	Sex		Crude	Corr.	Rural Districts	Urban Districts	
		M	F					
1953	37	20	17	14.23	10.24	11.84	15.64	11.4
1954	38	19	19	14.33	9.88	11.67	15.50	11.3

The chief causes of death in order of frequency were:-

- (i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system ... 14 (10)
- (ii) Cancer 7 (8)
- (iii) Accidents 5 (Nil)
- (iv) Diseases of respiratory system 3 (7)

(The figures in parentheses are those for the year 1953)

The above four causes accounted for 29 or 76% of the total deaths recorded during the year.

Of the total deaths, 27 or 71% occurred in persons aged 65 years or over, and 18 or 47% in persons aged 75 years or over.

A table at the end of this Section shows the ages, sex distribution and causes of death in 1954.

Maternal Mortality

No deaths were registered as directly due to pregnancy or childbearing.

Infant Mortality

Infant Deaths					Rates per 1,000 live births			
ARUNDEL BOROUGH					ARUNDEL	WEST SUSSEX	ENGLAND	
Year	Total	Sex		Illegitimate	BOROUGH	R.D's	U.D's	AND WALES
		M	F					
1953	3	1	2	-	76.92	22	22	26.8
1954	1	-	1	-	31.25	22	26	25.5

The single death recorded during 1954 referred to an infant under 4 weeks of age.

Various Death Rates for England and Wales, and the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex, are shown in the following table of comparative statistics:-

	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>	<u>West Sussex</u>	<u>Arundel</u>	<u>Borough</u>	
		<u>Urban</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...	0.69	Nil	0.38	Nil	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 pop ...	0.16	0.17	0.08	Nil	Nil
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 population ...	2.03	2.80	2.30	2.64	3.07

Table of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life During 1954.

No deaths occurred from the following causes:-

<u>R.G. List</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>R.G. List</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Cause</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	15	Leukaemia.
2	Tuberculosis, other	16	Diabetes
3	Syphilitic Disease	22	Influenza
4	Diphtheria	26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.
5	Whooping Cough		
6	Meningococcal Infections.	27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.
7	Acute Poliomyelitis.		
8	Measles.	29	Hyperplasia of prostate
9	Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	30	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus.	31	Congenital Malformations
		35	Suicide.
		36	Homicide & operations of war.

Table of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life
during the Year 1954

R. G. List Number	Causes of Death	S e x	All Ages	Years							
				Under 4 Wks.	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-
				M	19	-	-	1	1	4	4
	All Causes	F	19	1	1	-	-	3	5	6	3
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Malig. neoplasm, breast	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
18	Coronary disease, angina	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
19	Hypertension with heart disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
20	Other heart diseases	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
		F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
21	Other circulatory diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
23	Pneumonia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24	Bronchitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Other defined & ill- defined diseases	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
		F	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
33	Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
		F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
		F	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2

Section II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospitals

The hospitals providing accommodation and treatment for residents of the Borough are administered by the South-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board through the Hospital Management Committees. The hospitals are:-

St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.
Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester.
Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea.
Sussex Maternity and Women's Hospital, Brighton.
Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington.
Aldingbourne House Sanatorium.
Bognor Annex to Aldingbourne House (formerly part of Isolation Hospital).
Swandeans Isolation Hospital, Worthing.
Arundel and District Hospital.
Worthing Hospital.

Laboratory Service.

The Public Health Laboratory at Milton Road, Portsmouth, carried out all public health work for the Council.

The following examinations were made during the year:-

(a) Water examinations	...	38
(b) Milk examinations	...	33

Ambulances

The Local Health Authority (the West Sussex County Council) provides an ambulance service with ambulances operating from Littlehampton.

Ambulances for the removal of infectious cases are stationed at Chichester, Bognor Regis, Worthing and Horsham.

Home Nursing and Midwifery.

The West Sussex County Council provides nursing services. One District Nurse in Arundel is responsible for Home Nursing, Midwifery, School and Health Visiting duties.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	-)	
Ante-Natal Clinics	-)	held at Arundel
School Clinics (Minor Ailments)	-)	Chichester and
Eye Clinics	-)	Littlehampton.
Orthopaedic Clinic	-)	
Speech Therapy Clinic	-)	held at Chichester.
Aural Clinic	-)	
Chest Clinic	-	held at Aldingbourne House Sanatorium.
Venereal Diseases Clinic	-	held at Worthing Hospital and St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Sections 47 and 50

No action was necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWater Supply

No changes have been made during the year to the water supply of the Borough which is provided by the Fitzalan-Howard Estates Ltd., from a bore hole and well situated in Mill Road near Swanbourne Lake, and pumped unfiltered to a reservoir in Arundel Park.

Water consumed in the Borough is purchased in bulk. It is chlorinated at the Waterworks by the Corporation before distribution, and a constant supply is maintained to almost every house in the Borough. Only two isolated cottages depend on underground rainwater storage tanks. The quantity of water available is estimated to be sufficient for the steady development of the district for many years to come.

The Chlorination plant consists of an Ammoniator, Chlorinator and Reagent Feeder using Sodium Hypochlorite. Constant supervision of this plant is maintained.

Four new mains with a total length of 453 yards have been laid during the year including the installation of 3 fire hydrants and 6 sluice valves. (3" mains 191 yards and 4" mains 262 yards).

This work included two new mains on the Steward Copse Housing Estate carried out by Contractors, and two new mains laid by the Corporation's Water Department.

As in previous years, specimens of raw water from both the bore hole and the well, and of chlorinated water from consumers' taps were submitted for bacteriological examination at regular intervals. A total of 38 samples were submitted, and the following table gives details of the reports received:-

No. of Samples Submitted	Source	PATHOLOGIST'S REPORT				
		Raw Water		Chlorinated Supply		
		Satisfactory	Contamination	Moderate	Marked	Satisfactory
13	Borehole	3	7	3	-	-
13	Well	-	5	8	-	-
12	Distribut- ion Mains.	-	-	-	-	12
38	TOTALS	3	12	11	-	12

In addition, samples were taken for chemical analysis from the bore and well. The Analyst reported in both instances as follows:-

"This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its contents of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic purity; it shows bacterial impurity including Bact. Coli in appreciable, although not excessive numbers.

These results are indicative of a water readily amenable to treatment by Chlorination for public supply purposes."

The 12 samples of chlorinated water taken from consumers' taps were found to be of satisfactory purity. The bacterial quality of the water therefore is at times dependent upon efficient chlorination and interruption of chlorination is avoided by supervision of the plant and its operation.

Water Statistics for the year ending 31st March, 1954.

Water Consumption in the Borough,

	<u>Gallons</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
(1) Domestic and unmetered supplies	... 30,873,868	84,585
(2) Industrial and trade supplies by meter	<u>5,240,842</u>	<u>14,358</u>
Total for area of supply	... 36,114,710	98,943

Supplies through Corporation mains for Fitzalan-

Howard Estates Ltd., under Water Agreement.

	<u>Gallons</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Day</u>
(a) Tortington...	... 680,180	1,863
(b) Lymminster....	<u>22,095,100</u>	<u>60,534</u>
Totals	<u>22,775,280</u>	<u>62,397</u>

Increased consumption of water supplied through Borough mains over 1953 ... 4,495,770 13,413

Decreased consumption of water supplied by Corporation over the year 1953 ... 828,750 2,270

Maximum weekly consumption 785,430 gallons
Minimum weekly consumption 600,780 gallons

Gallons per head per day (exclusive of metered supplies)... ... 31.9 gallons

Gallons per head per day (inclusive of metered supplies)... ... 37.3 gallons

Number of metered supplies 42

Length of mains owned by the Corporation 6.25 miles

Estimated population supplied... 2,650

During the year detection of misuse and waste of water continued. Many defective appliances were found and rectified, and leaks repaired. Whilst the installation of modern sanitary appliances in many of the older houses, and the erection of new houses, undoubtedly increases consumption, the fall in total consumption was largely attributable to the prevention of wastage in defective appliances and services.

The Corporation have adopted Byelaws regarding the misuse and waste of water.

There was one major water mains burst during the year, with considerable wastage of water before it could be repaired.

During July the four operatives employed at the Waterworks had blood tests for the Enteric diseases, with negative results.

It is becoming evident that with the extension of the Stewards Copse Housing Estate, some means of boosting the water supply in that area is necessary.

Owing to the small difference in height between parts of the Estate and the water level in the Reservoir a considerable fall in pressure has been experienced. Whilst the present pressure is adequate for domestic purposes it is not sufficient for fire fighting and the position was under consideration at the end of the year.

By agreement the Corporation supply their Council houses within the statutory area of the Bognor and District Water Board.

Drainage and Sewerage

No alteration in the methods of sewage treatment and disposal at either of the Council's Sewage Disposal Works was made during the year.

In past years, complaints of bad smells have been received from residents in the neighbourhood of the Ford Road Sewage Works. During the summer of 1953 the sewage was treated with Sodium Hypochlorite as an experiment in the detritus tank. This has proved very satisfactory as only a very occasional complaint has been received. It must however be stated that the summer of 1954 was exceedingly wet and the conditions more favourable for sewage disposal.

The main sewage works are very antiquated, being designed for chemical precipitation and sludge pressing - a method long since abandoned by Local Authorities. The sludge pressing method has not been used since about 1914. The volume of sewage is getting greater each year with new houses being erected, and improved sanitary appliances in the older houses. In addition, with the growth of the Torton Hill Estate, the works are rapidly becoming surrounded and are no longer isolated as they were when established.

The heavy rainfall during the year necessitated an increase in pumping at the Fitzalan Road Works.

Three major blockages of sewers required extensive rodding and hosing to clear.

New foul sewers laid to the new Council Housing Estate were 113 yards of 7", 62 yards of 6", and 11 yards of 4" piping. New storm water sewers were 201 yards of 6", and 160 yards of 4". Approximately 100 feet of 4" storm water sewer was also laid in Mill Road.

Three defective street manhole covers to the foul sewers were replaced during the year.

None of the few remaining earth closets in the Borough were converted to water closets.

There are 12 premises still using bucket closets with soakaway drainage for sullage water, while 30 other premises have water carriage sanitation and either run to cesspools or soakaways. Practically all these premises are situated in positions which make it impossible to connect to a sewer or where main drainage is not available.

Public Conveniences

The Corporation ownstwo public conveniences, the one on the Town Quay having been in service for a number of years.

A new building for females was erected by the Corporation in Mill Road in 1953, and can be extended if necessary.

Rivers and Streams

No action was necessary to check pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

A varying number of vessels, two of which are still being permanently used for habitation, are moored to wharves in the Borough.

Public Cleansing

The collection of household refuse throughout the Borough is carried out weekly by the Corporation. Trade refuse is also removed by arrangement on request.

The Council continued the salvage of waste paper, textiles, etc., and the following materials were sold during 1954:-

							<u>Revenue</u>
				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£. s. d
Waste Paper and Books	...	...	...	10	9	3	68 3 4
Non-ferrous metals	...	...	...		1	0	4 0 0
Ferrous metals	...	...	...	1	3	0	7 0 6
				11	13	3	£79 3 10

The salvage figures show an increase over the previous year, as the market for waste paper is now more favourable. The price obtained for baled waste paper is very low, and as we have no contract with a paper mill it is liable to fluctuation according to national demand. Apart from its salvage value however, it is very desirable to keep as much paper as possible off the tip.

Tipping of earth is still permitted on the old tip in Canada Road, and is indeed welcomed, to help in levelling the surface. Several Contractors have availed themselves of this facility and a section of the area has been bulldozed to rough levels. An area of the reclaimed land is being leased to the Boy Scout Association who hope to erect a Hall thereon in the near future.

Refuse tipping has continued in the Old Quarry at Scotland Barn in the Tortington Parish of Chichester Rural District Council. Every effort has been made to carry out "controlled tipping" and one employee is engaged full time on the tip for this purpose. Unfortunately the tip is some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town centre which slows down collection and adds to its running costs. Investigation is still proceeding in an endeavour to obtain a more centrally situated tip for controlled tipping.

Three full days per week are devoted to refuse collection and disposal, and with the addition during the year of 54 more new houses, it will be appreciated that this essential service is gradually becoming a full time job for which men will have to be solely employed.

Every effort is made to keep under control the potential menace of flies and rats on the tip. The tip is sprayed with "Gammexane" for flies, and regularly treated for rats.

The Corporation continued to give assistance to the County Council in the clearance of snow and dealing with icy conditions on all roads in the Borough.

The scavenging of both County and District roads by the Corporation has continued, as has also the routine emptying of street gullies in the District roads.

Shops Act, 1950.

Nineteen visits were made to shops in the District. As a result of these inspections, four defects were found, all of which have been remedied.

Sunday Closing - Part IV.

Two visits were made during the year and verbal warnings given to traders contravening the Act. Both shopkeepers pleaded ignorance of the Act.

The temptation to sell prohibited goods on Sundays is very great, particularly in the summer in a district such as this. Nevertheless, it is an offence to sell such goods and the Chamber of Commerce could do much to enlighten those of its members who are in any doubt on the matter, and perhaps dissuade possible offenders. The Corporation will undoubtedly be reluctant to prosecute but will have to enforce the law unless such trading is apprehended.

Smoke Abatement.

No action has been necessary in this direction.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

Two complaints of flea infestations were received. Ten houses were inspected and three premises sprayed with D.D.T. solution.

No evidence of bed bug infestation was reported or discovered.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

One site in the Borough is licensed for camping purposes under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. It comprises .715 of an acre, is licensed for two caravans and one tent, and has a main water supply and dry conservancy sanitary facilities.

No formal action was necessary during the year in this direction. Tents and vans of fairs and a circus which visited the Borough during the year were well managed, and by co-operation of the landowner, adequate sanitary provisions were made.

The Corporation have not adopted Byc-laws to control Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in use in the District.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The West Sussex No.2 Workable Area Committee set up in 1944 has continued to meet quarterly in Littlehampton, the Sanitary Inspector being the representative of the Borough on this Committee.

Complaints regarding rats are dealt with by the Council's part time Rodent Operator.

As a result of independent investigations, and complaints received, only a few minor infestations were discovered and dealt with. No infestations were referred either to the Agricultural Executive Committee or the West Sussex Rivers Board.

Council properties are regularly baited as a precautionary measure.

The recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are carried out to eradicate all infestations.

The baiting of sewers was considered unnecessary during 1954, as inspection of several manholes revealed no evidence of infestations, following the comprehensive tests which were carried out the previous year.

A new part time Rodent Operator took over in December after undergoing a training course organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Schools

The water closets at the R.C. School were resited and converted into individual flush closets entirely under cover for both sexes.

The C. of E. School remains on the communal and antiquated flush water trough closet system.

Factories Act, 1937

On the Factory Register there are 48 factories and workplaces in the Borough, of which 31 are provided with mechanical power.

Visits to factories with mechanical power	...	27
Visits to factories without mechanical power...		7
Visits to workplaces...	...	4
Number of defects found	...	6
Number of defects remedied...	...	7

Details of Sanitary Works and Improvements under the Public Health and Housing Acts

Inspections with regard to Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	-
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	-
Visits to sewage works	...	...	...	...	...	15
Visits to offices	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	-
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	33
Visits to Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2
Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	39
Visits to Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Visits to tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inspections under the Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	321
Inspections regarding dangerous structures	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	91
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	11
New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	85
Earth Closets converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	-
Premises connected to main drainage	...	...	...	...	...	54
Premises connected to water main	...	...	...	...	...	54
Visits in connection with water supplies and appliances	...	...	...	...	...	172
Visits to refuse disposal tips	...	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous inspections	...	...	...	...	...	134
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	124

Other Visits

In connection with District Roads	...	...	...	...	...	120
In connection with Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	32
In connection with Street Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	33

Summary

Total number of inspections made for all purposes	...	...	...	...	...	1482
Total number of notices served:-						
(a) Informal	...	...	...	...	...	44
(b) Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	59
Total number of nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	43
Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	38

Section IV

Housing

It is a pleasure to be able to report that the housing problem has eased considerably during the year. This is, of course, largely due to the 57 new dwellings provided by the Corporation and by private enterprise. 42 new Council houses were completed and 13 families from the waiting list were re-housed in existing Council houses, to fill casual vacancies.

A considerable number of alterations and works of repair and improvement of the older type houses has also taken place.

That part of the 1949 Housing Act which gives owners the opportunity of applying for grants in respect of alterations and improvements, has so far not been applied in the Borough. Apart from a few preliminary enquiries, no definite application has been received. Grants are not applicable for maintenance work alone, and many of the houses in the town require maintenance rather than improvements.

The Corporation has endeavoured to continue an effective policy of demolition and closing of houses in such a condition as to be unfit for human habitation, but this is an extremely difficult policy to pursue at the present time. During the past seven years, 27 such houses have been demolished in the Borough and another 9 closed. In addition, two other demolition orders were made but one house is still occupied.

Since the war the Corporation have acquired ten unfit houses with the object of demolition. Of these, five have been demolished, one let as a stores and four are still occupied and await demolition.

The application register for Council Houses, at the close of the year, recorded some 54 applicants, chiefly from persons residing or working within the Borough; applications are not otherwise accepted.

Works of repair and maintenance to the Council's property is effected by direct labour - three men being permanently employed for this purpose.

New Building

(a) Council Houses

Forty-two dwellings were completed during the year, comprising 8 bungalows, 8 two-bedroomed houses, 10 three-bedroomed houses and 16 two-bedroomed flats.

Two three-bedroomed houses of the 1954 Scheme were under construction at the end of the year.

In January the Mayor ceremonially opened the 100th post war dwelling.

(a) Council Houses (Cont.)

Also under construction was the link road between Jarvis and Pearson Roads. The sewers and water mains had been laid, road curbing fixed and carriageway foundations put down. These works have facilitated the erection of the 1954 Housing Scheme.

Further works of site clearance were also in hand at the close of the year. This land which some four years ago formed part of Stewards Copse has been entirely cleared of tree roots and scrubwood. Future housing sites have been roughly levelled.

The Corporation propose to erect fourteen dwellings in 1955 and the Borough Surveyor has been instructed to prepare and execute this scheme. At the close of the year preparations for this next scheme were well in hand. Plans and layout details had been approved by the Corporation for utilizing the outer side of the road nearly completed. A tender for these houses was under negotiation with one of the Corporation's present Contractors.

The 1955 scheme will be the sixth stage of a comprehensive scheme approved by the Ministry of Health for the Stewards Copse Area.

The final street works have also been effected in the first section of Pearson Road and similar works were in progress in Canada Road (top section).

At the close of the year the Corporation had works in progress on Housing Contracts to the value of £19,856., roadworks £6,180 and site clearance works of £1492.

Improvements in ^{pre-} ~~post~~ war Council houses have included the installation of internal W.C's in six houses, and the installation of electricity in the remaining houses.

Summary of Housing Accommodation administered by the Corporation

Set out herewith are details of accommodation administered by the Corporation as at the 31st December, 1954:-

Council Houses:

Erected pre-war	...	...	...	81
Erected post war	...	...	...	<u>138</u>
				219
Almshouses	...	...	...	6
Premises for demolition	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	<u>2</u>
				231

(b) Private Building

Twelve houses have been completed by private enterprise during the year and six further houses were under construction. In addition one large house was converted into four separate flats.

Control of Civil Building

The Town Clerk and Surveyor continued to act as Licensing Officers on behalf of the Ministry of Works and dealt with five applications up to July, when control under the Defence Regulations ceased. Licences were issued to the value of £9,987. No applications were refused, but one licence was revoked.

In connection with these licences and with licences granted by the Ministry of Works, six visits were made.

Requisitioning of Property

All properties previously requisitioned by the Corporation were released by the end of 1950.

Housing Statistics

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	90
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	230
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925...	...	24
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	83
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...
		...	...	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	66

2. Remedying of defects during the year without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	...	63
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3. Remedying of defects during the year with service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action taken by the Local Authority Nil

4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10,11,12 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Houses demolished without resort to statutory action	3
(ii) Houses closed without resort to statutory action	4
(iii) Demolition orders made	3

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(ii) Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

5. Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	36
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported	Nil
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	8
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling houses again became overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Civil Defence

The Borough Surveyor continues to act as Civil Defence Officer and a separate Committee has been established to deal with Civil Defence matters. The response to the call for volunteers has greatly improved and at the close of the year 82 volunteers had been enrolled, most of whom had received some training.

Training courses for Head-quarters, Wardens, Welfare and Rescue Sections were held during the year.

The Women's Voluntary Services have been very active in the Borough under their Section Leader Mrs. Fleming. They have a part-time office in the Council Offices.

The Evacuation and Billeting Officer is Mr. T.A. Healey who also continues to act as Head Warden.

Arundel is a member of the Worthing Sub-Division of the West Sussex Civil Defence Corps.

The Report and Control centre has been used extensively for training purposes. It is ready for operational use with but a few alterations.

An additional air raid siren was erected in Torton Hill Road at the site selected by the Home Office.

A social and training centre has now been established and a Committee formed independent of the Corporation to manage its affairs.

Section V

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

All farms in the Borough are supplied with mains water. The position at the end of the year was as follows:-

No. of farms in the Borough	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. actually producing milk	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Dairymen (Milk Sellers)...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of inspections made of Milkshops...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of contraventions of the Regulations found	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Milk Sampling.

Thirty-three samples of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milks were taken during the year. The results were as follows:-

Designation	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Failed owing to	
				Meth. Blue Test	Phosphatase Test
Pasteurised	16	16	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	6	5	1	-	1
Tuberculin Tested	10	9	1	1	-
Accredited	1	1	-	-	-
Totals	33	31	2	1	1

One sample of milk from a cowkeeper within the Borough was submitted for Biological examination by a neighbouring Authority, and was reported on as satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were granted during 1954:-

- (1) Supplementary licences to retail "T.T." milk 5
- (2) Supplementary licences to retail "Pasteurised" milk ... 5

The Borough was included in a "Specified Area" as from the 1st April, 1954. The effect of the Order defining this Specified Area is to prevent the sale in the Borough of any milk which is not designated, i.e., Sterilised, Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Accredited. In fact, no undesignedated milk has been sold in the town for some time.

Meat and Other Foods

In 1939 there were two private slaughterhouses in the Borough. These remained closed during the meat rationing period, except for the occasional slaughter of pigs and calves authorised by the Ministry of Food.

Before the 1st July, supplies for the local butchers continued to be delivered from the Government Slaughterhouse at Worthing.

As from the 1st July, one private slaughterhouse was licenced. The Corporation decided that the other was so derelict and lacking in facilities as to be quite unfit for such a purpose.

Two of the local butchers are by mutual agreement using the licenced slaughterhouse. The other two obtain their supplies of English meat from slaughterhouses outside the Borough.

The following carcases were examined at the Slaughterhouse:-

Beef	...	...	42
Calves	...	...	16
Sheep	...	...	27
Pigs	...	...	72
			<hr/>
Total	...	157	<hr/>

No. of visits to slaughterhouse for meat inspection purposes 54

The quality of the animals killed has been very high, as may be noted from the amount condemned as unfit for human consumption, which was as follows:-

3 Ox Heads	...	...	...	Tuberculosis	(Wt. Approx.)	53 lbs.)
4 Ox Livers	...	...	...	Distoma	" "	28 lbs.
1 Part Ox Liver	...	...	...	Distoma	" "	4 lbs.
2 Part Ox Livers	...	...	...	Tumours	" "	8 lbs.
1 Pigs Liver	...	...	...	Cirrhosis	" "	4 lbs.
						<hr/>
						97 lbs.

Unsound food at the slaughterhouse is coloured and taken by a Portsmouth firm of fertiliser manufacturers.

Periodic inspections of butcher's shops and vehicles have been continued during the year, and the following items weighing 15 lbs. have been surrendered and condemned:-

4 lbs. Luncheon Meat.
10 lbs. New Zealand Lamb's Livers.
1 x 12 oz. Tin Corned Beef.

Details of inspections carried out during the year are as follows:-

(a) No. of inspections of butcher's shops	...	...	39
(b) No. of inspections of vehicles	...	...	Nil

Five sanitary defects were remedied by informal action.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

During the period under review, seven renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted by the Corporation.

Bakehouses

There are four Bakehouses in the Borough. Three visits were made to these premises and one defect was observed, which was remedied by informal action.

Ice Cream

Twenty-two premises in the Borough are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice-cream, one for manufacture. Other vendors visited the district during the year offering for sale ice-cream manufactured elsewhere.

The results of ice-cream samples taken by the Food and Drugs Authority for fat content are not available.

Fried Fish Shops

Visits of inspection were made to the one Fish Frying Establishment in the Borough. Satisfactory conditions are maintained and no complaints have been received.

Mortuary

The Corporation own and maintain a mortuary which is situated in Ford Road adjoining the Cemetery. The building is well equipped and kept in a satisfactory condition.

Mosquito Control

No action was considered necessary in regard to mosquito control.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no such premises within the Borough.

Petroleum and Carbide

Ten licences for the storage of petroleum spirit were issued during 1954, and 19 visits of inspection were made for this purpose. No carbide storage licences were issued. The storage arrangements of the applicants were satisfactory.

Dangerous Structures - Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 58

Informal notices regarding the repair or removal of two dangerous buildings or structures were served during the year. In both cases the notices were complied with.

Street Lighting

The Corporation is responsible for street lighting in the Borough and operates 153 street lamps by gas illumination. During the year six lamps were added to the lighting system, and two lamps were re-sited to give improved lighting.

Six lamps were damaged during the year by motor traffic.

Thirty-three visits of inspection in regard to street lighting were made during the year.

The Corporation have a seven year contract with the South Eastern Gas Board for street lighting which was renewed as from the 1st April, 1952.

Food Adulteration

The West Sussex County Council is the Authority responsible for the Food Adulteration Sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Details of the samples taken in the Borough are not available for inclusion in this report.

Water Cress

Visits of inspection were paid to the watercress beds in the Borough and no complaints were received during the year.

Food Premises

Byelaws concerning the "Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air" have been made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. These were confirmed by the Ministry of Food on the 14th June, 1950.

There are 72 food premises in the Borough, details of which are as follows:-

16 Catering Establishments	16 Licensed premises
9 Confectioners	4 Butcher's Shops
2 Chemists	3 Greengrocers
1 Corn Store	12 Grocers
3 Dairies	4 Bakehouses
2 Fishmongers	

Sixty-six visits of inspection were made to food premises during the year.

Generally, the cafes and food shops maintain a high standard of cleanliness.

Other Foods

The following items of foodstuffs, weighing a total of 43 lbs., were found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned:-

1 x 10 oz. Tin Strawberries
2 x 1 lb. Tins Orange Juice
47 x 14 oz. Tins Condensed Milk

Section VI

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASES

Forty-nine cases of infectious disease were notified, of which thirty-nine were Whooping Cough. No cases of Measles, or of Poliomyelitis, were notified in the Borough during the year.

Again, no cases of Diphtheria occurred, but parents still need reminding that it is their responsibility to see that all babies are immunised before the first birthday. Only by keeping up, and, indeed, increasing the proportion of babies protected against Diphtheria can the continued absence of the disease from the area be ensured.

Cancer

Seven deaths (6 male, 1 female) were attributed to Cancer during the year (eight in 1953). The Cancer Death Rate for 1954 is 2.64 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with a rate of 3.07 for the previous year. Corresponding rates for the Administrative County and the Urban and Rural Districts of West Sussex are 2.55, 2.80 and 2.30 respectively.

Diphtheria

(a) Notifications. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during 1954, nor were any deaths registered as due to this cause.

(b) Supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. Serum can be obtained by Medical Practitioners for the treatment of suspected cases and contacts, from the Royal West Sussex Hospital and St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and from the Isolation Hospital, Worthing.

(c) Immunisation. Thirty-four children under five years of age, and six children over five but under fifteen years, received a complete course of protective inoculations in 1954. In addition, seventy-two children received 'follow-up' injections.

Dysentery

One case of Dysentery (Shigella Shiga) was notified. (Nil in 1953)

The patient had recently returned from overseas service with H.M. Forces, and he was admitted to hospital for treatment.

Scarlet Fever

Seven cases were notified during the year (2 cases in 1953).

Home isolation was possible in each case.

Tuberculosis

Two primary notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were received during the year, and the following table gives details of the number of cases on the notification register.

Notification Register of Tubercular Patients 1954

	Pulmonary Cases			Non-Pulmonary Cases			Total Cases (all forms)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1. No. on Register at 1.1.54	6	9	15	3	1	4	9	10	19
2. Cases previously removed & returning during 1954.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Primary notifications received in 1954.	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	2
4. Cases moved into District as transfers from other areas.	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	7	9	16	3	3	6	10	12	22
5. Cases removed from register during 1954.	1	2	3	1	1	2	2	3	5
6. No. on Register 31.12.54.	6	7	13	2	2	4	8	9	17

Whooping Cough

Thirty-nine cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year (five in 1953).

Other Diseases

No notifications were received during the year of the under-mentioned diseases:-

Cholera	Meningococcal Infections
Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Encephalitis (Acute)	Plague
Enteric Fever	Pneumonia
Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis
Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
Malaria	Relapsing Fever
Measles	Smallpox
Membranous Croup	Typhus

Table Showing Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1954.

Disease	Cases Notified			Age Distribution							Total			
	M	F	Total	Under 1	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	45-	65-	
Dysentery	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	6	1	7	-	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	7
Tuberculosis-Non.Pul.	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Whooping Cough	17	22	39	2	4	7	5	3	18	-	-	-	-	39
Totals	24	25	49	2	4	7	6	4	22	1	-	1	2	49

Details of Notifications received of
Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough since 1945

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Measles	21	-	2	17	52	7	127	7	61	-
Scarlet Fever	2	1	3	2	6	14	-	8	2	7
Whooping Cough	15	1	-	30	-	1	44	-	5	39